

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a diode, comprising the steps of: forming an anode of a first conductivity type and a cathode of a second conductivity type disposed below said anode on a first region of a substrate without removing said first region, wherein at least one of said cathode and anode comprise a plurality of vertically abutting diffusion regions; and etching said substrate adjacent said first region to form a plurality of isolation regions, said cathode and anode being disposed between adjacent ones of said plurality of isolation regions, said plurality of isolation regions extending deeper into said substrate than said cathode and said anode.
27. (Original) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein said isolation regions comprise a plurality of insulation-filled trenches having sidewalls that are substantially vertical.
28. (Original) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein said isolation regions comprise a plurality of insulation-filled trenches having sidewalls that are tapered.
29. (Original) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein said step of forming said cathode comprises:
forming a first doped region of a second conductivity type abutting said anode; and
forming a second doped region of said second conductivity type abutting and disposed below said first doped region and contacting said substrate, said first and second doped regions having different dopant concentrations.

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30. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 29, further comprising the step of: forming a second pair of isolation structures disposed between said adjacent isolation regions and said anode.
31. (Original) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein said isolation regions are formed by a process comprising the steps of:
etching said substrate to form trenches;
depositing at least one insulator; and
removing portions of said insulator outside of said trenches.
32. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein said step of depositing comprises deposition of a fill material.
33. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein said step of forming said cathode further comprises the step of forming a third doped region disposed between said first doped region and said second doped region.
34. (Original) The method as recited in claim 33, wherein said third doped region comprises a retrograde-doped region.
35. (Original) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein said step of forming said anode comprises the steps of:
forming a first doped region abutting said cathode; and
forming a second doped region on a surface of said substrate, said second doped region having a higher concentration of dopant than said first doped region.
36. (Original) The method as recited in claim 35, wherein said first doped region comprises a

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retrograde-doped region.

37. (Original) The method as recited in claim 35, further comprising the steps of:
forming a plurality of diffusion regions of said second conductivity type on a surface of
said substrate.
38. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 37, further comprising the step of:
forming a plurality of second isolation regions that separate said plurality of diffusion
regions from said cathode.

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